Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Method of Works for

Pond Excavations 2023



Satellite overview of the site.

July Cottage Pond

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Introduction

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have worked closely with Wiltshire County Council regarding planning permission for wildlife ponds across the county. We have been tasked with helping the planning stage of this project. Funding contribution for this particular pond has had approval from Cranborne Chase ANOB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), under a FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) grant.

This method statement has been prepared to provide information for the creation of one wildlife pond at ST 96452 26434 (see '*July Cottage Pond Overview and Design*'). This wildlife pond creation will provide habitat for freshwater invertebrates, crustaceans & amphibians, in a wildflower meadow. Over half a million ponds have been lost over the last 100 years and one in five remaining ponds are thought to be in poor condition. The creation of a new pond will mean that there is less of a chance of contamination by alien plants or run-off.

This project is scheduled to be delivered in Spring 2024.

CDM roles and responsibilities

The work described in this Method of Work is not notifiable under 2015 CDM regulations (less than 500 person days, less than 30 workdays) therefore an F10 document will not be submitted. Whether a project is notifiable or not, does not affect type, severity and likelihood of risks: therefore, a CDM action plan in line with 2015 CDM regulation will be produced including a complete suite of practical risk assessments (and mitigation measures) for the different tasks within this project. This will be completed in close cooperation with an expert H&S officer to ensure all workers (paid and voluntary) will be able to work in a safe environment. Furthermore, all parties and persons with a CDM role will be made completely aware of their responsibilities.

Waste Management

The value of works falls under the £300,000 threshold which would require a Site Waste Management Plan. However, consistent with good site husbandry the contractor shall demonstrate that:

- Waste is minimised, and all waste is taken off site (unless agreed otherwise)

Environmental legislation and pollution control

The principal contractor (TBC) shall undertake all works in a manner which ensures compliance with all relevant environmental and biosecurity legislation.

Spill kits will be readily available on site. PPG5 guidelines shall be included in the site file for reference in an emergency spill incident.

Any incident shall be reported promptly to the Environment Agency – Tel 0800 80 70 60.

Health and safety

Site safety, security and access

All workers and visitors on site will receive a site induction. This induction will include information on:

- Project objectives and design;
- Site hazards and risks, control measures and the project Works Method Statement;
- Specific dangers and considerations;
- Site designations, protected species e.g. water voles, bats, salmonids, lizards;
- Compulsory bio-security risks and control measures;
- Pollution control and the response to incidents;
- Emergency procedures.

A daily register will be held to account for everyone being on site.

The site is on private land with only one access point (see '*July Cottage Pond Overview and Design'*). The site access is through a private driveway, with no public access. A banksman will be present for the movement of plant machinery to ensure safety of site operatives and the general public. In order to reduce the risk of accident and damage to the ground and to people on site, vehicle access to the project will be restricted to the distribution and delivery of tools, equipment and plant. Vehicles will be limited to 5mph. Construction site signs will also be erected at the site entrance.

Services search

A full services search will be carried out before the work commences. All workers on site will be informed about any services that are present on site (overhead cables as well as services in the ground).

H&S file and policy

A Health and Safety file is kept on site as an active document and updated accordingly with risk assessments, site safety sheets, induction sheets and current method statement. Any changes to design shall be entered according to CDM 2015.

Any accident that occurs will be recorded in the accident book held by the contractor and, if regulations demand reported to the HSE.

In case of emergency dial 999

Nearest Hospital:

Salisbury District Hospital, Odstock Road, Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

PPE

Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be worn whenever required by risk assessments. The minimum requirement is expected to include steel toe-capped boots, Hi-Visibility jackets and hard hats. Heavy-duty gloves will also be supplied and will be the required PPE for most tasks. Ear defenders will be provided if noise levels exceed 80dB and their use will be mandatory at above 85dB.

Machinery

All equipment for these works is supplied by the contractor and are routinely serviced and inspected (according to regulations). **Only staff trained to use designated plant shall operate machinery**.

Proposed Works

Task	Description	Resources Required
Creation of one pond	Two 1.5 ton low-pressure excavators and a 1 ton wheeled dumper (or other appropriate plant) will be used to create one pond on the site. The pond will be roughly 'kidney bean' shaped, of approximately ~15m by ~7m at their widest. Each will be no more than 1.5m at its deepest (see '*July Cottage Ponds Overview and Design*' for detailed design drawings and indicative cross sections). All spoil will be deposited outside the floodplain within the field boundary, and built into a bund (see '*July Cottage Ponds Close up'*). Height will not exceed 1m above present soil level, and slopes will not exceed 1:5 to maximize stability. Lay bentonite granules at approx.: 18kg per m^2 to seal the pervious soil layer and prevent water loss. This will be used instead of a rubberised liner, for a better ecological solution.	Tools and Materials: • 2x 1.5 ton tracked excavators • 1x 1 ton wheeled dumper • Bentonite Granules